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As a personal computer user for over 30 years, both at home and work, I have witnessed or experienced adverse effects of Microsoft's antitrust violations. In my opinion the settlement that is proposed will nether remedy nor discourage future antitrust violations of the type for which Microsoft has been found culpable.

The company has repeatedly and blatantly operated as a monopoly using unfair practices to eliminate competitors. It has already been found in violation. Yet I am dismayed to find that the "penalty" proposed actually enables Microsoft to advance its operating system monopoly.

I am particularly concerned with the level of intrusion and personal data-gathering afforded by the close coupling of Microsoft's operating system and its Web dominance. If appropriate action is not taken at this time, I am convinced that the public interest and privacy will suffer for many years to come.

The most appropriate remedy is to fully separate the "system" and "software" operations into separate and independent companies, where networking software is assigned to the latter. Even then, rigorous oversight would be required to ensure that there is no collusion. While this would be severe. I feel that Microsoft has not earned the very basic level of public trust that any other solution would require.

Sincerely

